1: EMBO J. 1995 Nov 15;14(22):5589-96. Related Articles, L

A conserved domain in Bak, distinct from BH1 and BH2, media cell death and protein binding functions.

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Regulation of the cell death program involves physical interactions between different members of the Bcl-2 family that either promote or suppress apoptosis. The Bcl-2 homolog, Bak, promotes apoptosis and binds anti-apoptotic family members including Bcl-2 and Bcl-xL. We have identified a domain in Bak that is both necessary and sufficient for cytotoxic activity and binding to Bcl-xL. Sequences similar to this domain were identified in Bax a Bip1, two other proteins that promote apoptosis and interact with Bcl-xL, an were likewise critical for their capacity to kill cells and bind Bcl-xL. Thus, th domain is of central importance in mediating the function of multiple cell death-regulatory proteins that interact with Bcl-2 family members.

PMID: 8521816 [PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE]

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